



BOROUGH OF



STALYBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT

**OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

1942

JAMES GORMAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

I N D E X.

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BOROUGH OF STALYBRIDGE.

COMMITTEES.

(Nov. 1942 — Nov. 1943).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman - - - - -	Councillor G. Leigh.
Deputy Chairman - -	Councillor R. Wilson, J.P.
The Mayor (ex-officio)	Councillor A. Sidebottom, J.P.
Alderman Williams, J.P., C.C., M.B., Ch.B.	
Councillor Abrahams,	Councillor Mrs. Illingworth,
„ Allen,	„ Porter,
„ Carr,	„ Slack,
„ Harris,	„ Twigge.
„ Hewitt,	„ West.
„ Hudson,	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman Alderman Williams, J.P., C.C., M.B., Ch.B.	
Deputy Chairman - The Mayor —	
(Councillor A. Sidebottom, J.P.)	
Alderman Mrs. Summers, M.B.E., J.P.	
„	J. Wilson, J.P.
Councillor Abrahams,	*Mrs. Harris.
„ Harris,	*Mrs. McCarthy.
„ Mrs. Illingworth,	*Mrs. Sykes.
„ Slack,	*Mrs. Tonge.
„ Twigge,	*Mrs. Walker.
„ West,	

* Co-opted Member.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Health Report for 1942 and note below certain brief comments on the principal features :-

A tragic happening marked the conclusion of the year's working in the death of Alderman G. Potts, J. P., Chairman of the Public Health Committee. Alderman Potts showed unfailing sympathy with any reasonable views placed before him allied to a keen interest in matters of Public Health which had extended over many years. His loss was a grievous one and his death deplored by all the officials with whom he came into the closest contact.

VITAL STATISTICS.

As compared with last year an improved picture is presented by a higher birth rate allied to lower death and infant mortality rates while no death from puerperal causes was recorded.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The increased Diphtheria notifications contrast with Scarlet Fever, Cerebro-spinal Fever and Pertussis while the Tuberculosis notifications in 1942 were less than half those of the previous year. Measles which accounted for some 214 notifications did not account for a single death, evidence of a mild type.

CHILD WELFARE.

The work of the year was fully up to the average in spite of the unsettled conditions which necessarily prevail.

GENERAL.

Milk and water supplies were kept under regular observation and the results in general provided no cause for disquiet

STAFF CHANGES.

During the year the Masseuse, Mrs. I. M. Brearley, resigned and the vacancy was filled by Mrs. S. B. Surendra.

I would express my appreciation of the co-operation forwarded alike by Committees and officials.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES GORMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Stalybridge.

July, 1942.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942.

The livebirth rate of 16.12 shows a slight increase while the crude death rate of 14.97 shows a decrease.

The livebirths during the year totalled 336 and deaths 312.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 21 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 62.5.

TABLE I.

Birth-Rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1942 (Provisional figures).
 (The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population but for London and the towns to civilians only.)

	Rate per 1000 Total Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1000 Population.								Rate per 1000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still-births.	All causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths under one year.
England and Wales.....	15.8	0.54	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.09	5.2	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	17.3	0.66	13.3	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.09	7.5	59
148 Smaller Towns(1931 Adjusted Populations, 25,000—50,000)	18.4	0.62	12.1	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.10	4.8	46
London	14.0	0.48	13.9	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.07	8.6	60
Stalybridge	16.12	0.67	14.9	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	62

Maternal mortality rate for England and Wales per 1000 Total Births .. 0.42 1.59 2.01

TABLE II.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN
FOR THE YEAR 1942.

CAUSES OF DEATH

No.	GROUP CAUSE OF DEATH.	M.	F.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	...	...	...
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	1
3.	Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...
4.	Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...
5.	Diphtheria .....	...	1	1
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	5	7
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	...	2
8.	Syphilitic disease	2	...	2
9.	Influenza .....	...	1	1
10.	Measles .....	...	...	...
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis .....	...	...	...
12.	Acute infectious encephalitis .....	...	...	...
13m	Cancer buccal cavity & oesophagus (Males only)	5	...	5
13 f	Cancer of uterus .....	...	7	7
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	8	5	13
15.	Cancer of Breast .....	...	5	5
16.	Cancer of other sites	8	9	17
17.	Diabetes .....	...	2	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	20	16	36
19.	Heart disease	45	46	91
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	4	4	8
21.	Bronchitis	8	13	21
22.	Pneumonia	5	2	7
23.	Other respiratory diseases	3	...	3
24.	Ulceration of stomach or duodenum	2	...	2
25.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) .....	...	...	...
26.	Appendicitis .....	...	...	...
27.	Other digestive diseases	5	3	8
28.	Nephritis	7	2	9
29.	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis.....	...	...	...
30.	Other maternal causes .....	...	...	...
31.	Premature birth	7	2	9
32.	Congenital Malformations, etc.	4	4	8
33.	Suicide .....	...	2	2
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	2	2	4
35.	Other violent causes	4	9	13
36.	All other causes	16	12	28
	ALL CAUSES.	160	152	312

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

BACTERIOLOGY.

SWABS.

86 swabs were examined for B. Diphtheriae and of these 21 faucial and 3 nasal were found positive. One virulence test was positive.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The importance of wartime nutritional problems has emphasised the significance of our farms. This emphasis has not been unaccompanied by an increase of visits and visitors and must in general have had its embarrassments for the farmer.

There is room for consolidation of the various forms of supervision and especially is there need for the closest co-operation between the Borough Council and the various departments outwith the control of the Borough Council which deal with this matter. The veterinary staff who deal with the stock and the local Council who safeguard the conditions under which the animals are kept and their products distributed should for example be in the closest touch. This co-operation should be part of a normal scheme and should not depend upon the incidence of some unsatisfactory feature such as a tuberculous milk sample to bring it into play.

Regular consultations between all the authorities responsible for the farms and attended by the farmer whose farm is being discussed would, I am sure, be productive of good results as it would enable all the pertinent facts concerning farms and stocks to be at one time brought before all the persons in a position to secure that the condition of farm and stock should be maintained at the highest possible level.

33 samples of milk were tested for Methylene Blue and B. Tuberculosis. Of the former, 30 returned satisfactory results while of the latter, 2 were found positive.

PASTEURISED MILK.

10 Phosphatase tests all provided satisfactory results — evidence that the pasteurization of milk sold locally is effectively performed.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

List of samples obtained in the Borough of Stalybridge during the year ended 31st December, 1942.:—

Name of Sample.	Number obtained	Number reported against
Milks	46	7
Butter	3	...
Sugar	1	...
Margarine	3	...
Lard	3	...
Tea	2	...
Cheese	2	...
Dessert Powder	1	...
Cheese Powder	1	...
Saccharine Tablets	2	...
Beer	2	...
Vinegar	1	...
Onion Condiment	2	2
Fish Paste	1	...
Sausage	1	...
Phos-Vita Tonic	2	...
Coffee	1	...
Bacon	1	...
Sal Volatile — Spirit of ...	1	...
Paregoric	1	...
	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 9

The above details have been supplied by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the County Council.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year, 9 chemical and 9 bacteriological water samples were taken and the results returned were considered satisfactory.

The storage tank in the Harridge Hall area has been improved and a small hand pump installed.

SCHOOLS.

A limited amount of progress was made during the year towards commencing alteration of the Canal Street Methodist sanitary accommodation.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

DAY NURSERIES.

Two comprehensive efforts were made to ascertain locally the demands for a wartime nursery. An advertisement of the details produced some 6 replies (although no obligation was incurred by replying) while some 1100 letters to individual families brought forth some 25 replies embracing 31 children.

The decision not to proceed with the project had therefore considerable justification.

It is not proposed to discuss here whether the demand for such a nursery having failed to precede might possibly succeed the actual commencement of such a nursery.

A factory nursery at a local mill has been approved for grant. This is a small venture run satisfactorily with a fully trained nurse in charge and the practice of having these nurseries where the mothers work seems to merit serious consideration.

The increasing calls on man and woman power make the role of the minder, whether relative or friend, ever more important and bring prominently to notice the helping hand afforded by the older generations.

There exists a natural tendency to forget the contribution of women who look after young families and by so doing are precluded from going out to work. Their contribution is apt to be taken for granted and certainly is seldom rewarded with either praise or pence. The fact remains however that these women — if they are to be successful — must have a definite routine unrelieved by the diversity of interest provided by a change of environment and their role, generally, is as important as it is unostentatious.

Wartime nurseries should, however, be subject to approval by the local welfare authority irrespective of whether or not application is made for grant. The conditions governing the care of young children can never suffer by routine and experienced supervision and while welfare authorities have, at the moment, ample scope for their energies, the addition of work of this nature could only be regarded as a progressive step.

CHARGES.

A meeting was held with the District Infirmary authorities at which the question of the treatment of children under 5 was discussed in detail and satisfactory arrangements made.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The number of cases attended by midwives during the year :

(1) As Midwives	123
(2) As Maternity Nurses... ..	100

The number of cases during the year in which medical aid was summoned under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1918 was 95.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936).

358 notifications of births were received during the year relating to 344 live-births and 14 stillbirths.

It is well worth noting that 162 cases were confined in institutions as compared with 106 in the previous year. This is striking evidence of the increasing public demand for institutional treatment and even allowing for the present shortage of staff to deal with domiciliary cases it brings into relief once more the question of a maternity or nursing home being provided in Stalybridge.

STILLBIRTHS.

Following upon the notes made last year a similar enquiry in respect of the 1942 stillbirths revealed the following facts:—

Health of the mother.

Only 5 out of 14 mothers were noted as having good health.

Previous history.

In 8 instances where previous history existed, 4 had been satisfactory and in only 2 cases had there been a history of miscarriage or stillbirth.

Ante-natal care.

In all the cases save one this appears to have been satisfactory.

Duration of pregnancy.

4 out of the 14 cases were delivered prematurely.

Nature of confinement.

Only 3 out of 14 confinements could be classed as normal.

Sex of child.

8 males and 6 females comprised the total.

Number of child in family.

Of the 14 instances, 6 related to the first child and three to the second.

Remarks.

A composite picture built on the individual facts shows that in general, a stillbirth occurred in the case of a mother whose health was poor, whose ante-natal care had been satisfactory and who was having her first or second child. The confinement related to a full-time child but was either instrumental or otherwise abnormal and if any previous children were noted it was likely that the history of the birth was satisfactory — a rather surprising preponderance of normal evidence certainly not suggesting a disastrous termination. The health of the mother is not unlikely to be unreliable as an index of cause in certain cases and the significant feature is the abnormal nature of the actual confinement.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths were investigated on lines similar to last year and details are noted below :—

Previous history.

15 out of 21 previous histories were satisfactory.

Ante-natal care was satisfactory in 18 out of 21 cases.

Confinement. 13 took place at home.

Age at death.

0—1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths	6—9 mths.
14	4	2	1

Month of death.

January	3	May	3	August	3
February	3	June	4	November	2
April	1	July	1	December	1

Sex. 13 males and 8 females comprised the 21 deaths.

Feeding. 5 mixed, 3 breast, 6 artificial.

Cause of death.

Prematurity accounted for 8, and congenital causes for 6 of the total while in two other instances a congenital factor seemed to be involved. Birth injury accounted for a further 2.

Number of child in family.

16 of the total cases comprised the first to third children, these being made up of—1st child - 6; 2nd - 7; 3rd - 3; on the other hand the 10th child was involved.

Mother working. 6 cases.

Housing.

In general also it may be taken that the housing conditions were satisfactory in the majority of cases.

Summary.

The previous history, ante - natal care, nature of confinement and month of death do not provide any important information. The feeding also appeared to provide no very significant information although in certain of the cases the child did not live long enough for this to be of any practical importance.

Age at death.

It is significant that 7 died within 24 hours of birth and 14 within a month.

It is also significant that a large majority of the cases apparently died from causes having an ante-natal origin.

The problem of prematurity still remains largely insoluble and the only instances in which a post-natal infection presents itself were those of one pemphigus and one broncho-pneumonia. An increased knowledge of the various factors governing maternal health together with the closest ante-natal supervision to enable all the evidence to be scientifically assessed seems the most practical contribution to be made towards this problem at the present time.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year, 119 cases were seen, and 352 attendances in all were made. An increased number of individuals and of attendances during the year is noted.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

37 new cases were seen and a total of 43 attendances was made.

INFANT CONSULTATION CENTRE.

Number of Sessions held... ..	98
Total number of Attendances of Infants	5018
Average Attendance per Session ...	51
Total number of children who at- tended the Centre for the first time during the year :—	
(a) Under 1 year of age	208
(b) Between 1 and 5 years ...	39
Total number of children who were attending the Centre at the close of the year :—	
(c) Under 1 year of age	177
(d) Between 1 and 5 years ...	340

Percentage of Infants receiving food
sold at Clinics 56

The attendance statistics generally show a marked increase over the previous year.

HEALTH VISITORS WORK.

The following is a tabular summary of the visits made by the Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of primary visits to children...0—1 year	311
(following notification of birth)	
„ other visits to children ... 0—1 year	1958
„ primary visits to transfers of all ages	21
„ other visits to children... 1—2 years	1051
„ „ „ „ 2—3 years	1038
„ „ „ „ 3—4 years	1018
„ „ „ „ 4—5 years	1179
„ „ re infant deaths	21
„ „ re stillbirths	17
„ „ re Ante - natal	28
„ „ re Post - natal	33
„ „ re Diphtheria Immunisation	33
Special visits	18
	<hr/> 6696 <hr/>

Infectious Disease Visits 48

	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5
	year	years	years	years	years
1st Visits.....	208	12	14	8	5
Subsequent Visits.....	3311	841	297	196	126
Number seen by M.O..	519	116	85	62	48

The Principal sales made at the Clinics were :—

4634 packets of dried milk.

144 lbs. 12 ozs. of Virol.

12 $\frac{2}{5}$ ths pints of Cod Liver Oil.

274 packets Farex.

The total receipts were £465 : 3 : 1.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

It will be seen below that some 43 new cases attended as compared with 34 last year and the number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 74.

During 1942, 82 sessions have been held, and the Orthopædic Surgeon was present at 10. The total attendance of pre-school children during the year was 364.

The types of new cases dealt with are as follows :—

Genu-Valgum (Knock Knee)	14
Genu - Varum (Bow Leg)	4
Spurius - Valgam (Flat Feet)	10
Calcaneo Varus	6
Toe deformities	2
Other conditions	7
	<hr/>
	43
	<hr/>

A monthly visit by the surgeon and an extra weekly visit by the masseuse were approved in 1942. One feels now that adequate time is available to do justice to any case presented. The attention that it is possible to give to minor deformities should act as a valuable barrier to their progressive course and the interest shown by the parents towards this branch of school medical work is most encouraging.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.

Referred for :—	Completed course		Course not completed	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Debility	9	11	6	4
Adenitis	2	—	2	2
Post Infectious Disease	—	—	—	1
Rickets	2	1	—	2
Genu Valgum	2	5	—	2
Genu Varus	—	—	1	1
Miscellaneous	2	—	4	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17	17	13	17

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

18 pre-school children attended, 6 being for re-inspection. Spectacles were issued to 4 cases. 8 cases were referred for further observation. In all, 34 attendances were made.

DENTAL CLINIC. The Dental Surgeon Reports:—

“It is pleasing to report that a scheme for the extension of the dental service in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service has been approved and accepted by the Committee.

The dental service now offers complete and comprehensive treatment to the patients attending the clinic.

The service incorporates the following additional facilities for treatment :

- 1 General anæsthetic service.
2. Provision of dentures.
3. Arrangements for :—
 - (a) radiological examinations.
 - (b) treatment of special and exceptional cases e.g., cysts and simple tumours requiring surgical treatment, such conditions are not common.

Work of the Year.

The figures for the work of the year are disappointingly low, only four patients applied for treatment, three were referred for treatment, two actually attended for the necessary treatment.

It is to be hoped that more patients attending the ante-natal clinic will avail themselves of the opportunities for treatment which are offered to them, it is obvious that extensive treatment is required in the vast majority of cases.

Pre-school age children.

17 children under five years of age were inspected, nine were found to require treatment. The treatment in each individual case was not extensive.

ANALYSIS OF TREATMENT.

Ante-natal patients.

Number of patients inspected	4
„ referred for treatment	3
„ of patients treated	2
„ of attendances for treatment	7
„ teeth extracted	16
„ of other operations	1

Pre-school children.

Number of children inspected	17
„ referred for treatment	9
„ of children treated	9
„ of attendances for treatment	14
„ of temporary teeth extracted	11
„ of other operations	8
„ of fillings	1

The following treatments are recorded under the heading of “other operations.” :—

Silver nitrate dressings,

Temporary fillings,

Scalings and dressings for the mucous membranes of the mouth.”

FRANCES I. WILSON,

Dental Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

The services of the following ladies have again been of the highest value in a voluntary capacity and in view of the many calls at present being made in other directions grateful acknowledgment is made of their assistance :—

Mrs. Tonge.

Miss Sylvester.

Mrs. Cropper.

Mrs. McCarthy.

Mrs. Revell.

Mrs. J. Burgess.

Miss Broadbent.

Mrs. Froggart.

Mrs. J. Bottomley.

Mrs. Harris.

Mrs. I. Walker.

Mrs. Hebdige.

Mrs. N. Bottomley.

Mrs. Slack.

Mrs. Woolley.

Mrs. Waugh.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER **INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

The following is a summary of the cases of infectious disease notified during the year, showing the corresponding figures for the previous year :—

	1942.	1941
Diphtheria	39	22
Scarlet Fever... ..	20	29
Tuberculosis (all forms)	15	37
Measles	214	204
Whooping Cough	6	63
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	3
Miscellaneous	36	34
	<hr/> 392 <hr/>	<hr/> 334 <hr/>

The year has been of an average type save for a large number of measles cases. This disease, disseminated largely before the rash appears, is most difficult to deal with successfully from a preventive side. The responsibility for treatment is almost invariably undertaken by the private practitioner and when a large number of cases follow one another speedily it is impossible for the Health Department to visit all of them quickly enough to make the visit of practical significance.

DISINFECTION.

During the year, 331 beds, 406 pillows and bolsters, 1707 blankets and 569 other articles have been dealt with at the Disinfecting Station.

SPECIFIC INFECTIONS.

DIPHTHERIA.

49 notifications were received during the year, and of these, 39 were confirmed cases. One death occurred from this disease, the age of the child concerned being 11 years. The child had not been immunised.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A special film provided by the Ministry of Information was shown at the Welfare Centre to mothers and others interested.

During the year some 307 school and 256 pre-school children were immunised. At present approximately 1577 school and 507 pre-school children are now immunised.

SCARLET FEVER.

20 cases were notified as against 29 the previous year, and of the notified cases, 5 were removed to hospital.

This disease features at the moment a very mild type in which the diagnosis is most difficult to establish with certainty. This, however, does not minimise the necessity of providing the best possible isolation for sufferers from the disease. Whether or not under present circumstances its notification is of much practical value is another matter but while the isolation mentioned is important it does not, of necessity follow that hospital is the best place in which to provide it. Recent investigations into the various strains of the organism causing Scarlet Fever seem to suggest that where possible, home isolation is the method of choice.

PNEUMONIA.

4 notifications were received, while 7 deaths were certified, further evidence that the notification of this disease serves no useful purpose.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year some 15 cases were notified as against 37 in the previous year. This must be the most striking drop which has been recorded for a considerable period in this report and it is to be hoped that this progress will be maintained.

A decrease in the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis — 7 — as against 13 — is noted while Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis accounted for 2, the same as in the previous year.

The maintenance of a Tuberculosis Register at a high degree of accuracy is a difficult matter. A case say of glandular Tuberculosis is notified by a private practitioner, does not attend a dispensary, but is, of course, registered. In due course the child not apparently suffering from anything serious ceases to attend the doctor who notified the case or attends another doctor to whom the condition is not evident. The case therefore automatically ceases to be under medical supervision and the course of the disease becomes unknown. It remains however, on the Tuberculosis Register. This hypothetical case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis may equally well concern the Pulmonary type of the disease and illustrates the difficulty of assessing the value of the names on the Register as compared with the condition of the patients. The solution would seem to be the insistence upon periodic supervision by specialist officers so that the names on the Register would represent the actual cases of active disease as only in this way can its presence serve the most useful purpose.

TUBERCULOSIS AND HOUSING.

Tuberculosis is a general disease with wide Public Health repercussions capable of being dealt with satisfactorily only by the application of the most comprehensive measures. Any tendency to deal with it piece-meal may be likened to dealing with unsatisfactory property by methods of repeated repair rather than by enlightened re-development.

The successful re-habilitation of the victim demands first and foremost that he be made to feel that he still has a place as a useful member of society and where possible the provision of suitable employment is a vital factor in achieving the desired object.

The provision of financial assistance will relieve the anxiety of want but will not affect the unfavourable environment which has so prejudicial an influence on many cases.

The housing of the sufferer must in every case, come under the closest survey and any extensive housing scheme should, in my view, include a number of houses specifically, if unobtrusively, reserved for Tuberculosis sufferers granted upon a promise that full use will be made of the improved accommodation. The isolation of a number of cases into any particular section of a housing estate would have deplorable effects on the people so treated and would merely stigmatise the patients and their households to no useful purpose. No new principle is involved in this re-housing suggestion since Tuberculosis is naturally at the present time not regarded as a bar to tenancy of any house.

A Child Welfare Committee is regarded as an essential part of every authority. A similar committee to safeguard the interests not only of the tuberculous but of the aged and infirm generally should be considered equally necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS—SPUTUM EXAMINATIONS.

67 specimens were examined, 16 were positive and 51 negative.

CANCER.

47 deaths during the year were attributed to cancer.

SCABIES.

The spread of this disease cannot surprise anyone cognisant of the outlook of many people towards the condition.

Children are allowed by some parents to attend school obviously suffering from some skin condition and the teachers have, on occasion, actually discovered a condition missed by the parents.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Throughout the year I have examined for superannuation and other purposes, 13 males and 1 female.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

The position remains unsatisfactory in this regard and no progress was made during the year. The plea for better accommodation is in fact, a plea for the public, since their right to privacy in consultation with the Sanitary Inspector is accepted as being of more importance than the comfort of the Sanitary Inspector.

POST WAR PLANNING.

The provision of a so-called State Medical Service is being discussed and certainly the existing service is capable of considerable beneficial adjustment. There exists, at the moment, a wide diversity of range in the Public Health services provided not only by authorities of different classes, e.g., County Borough, Borough and the like — this is largely inevitable — but also in those provided by authorities of the same class and this at least, should not be irremediable.

While the war is not responsible for this state of affairs post-war planning might well include such matters within its ambit. A general standard of reasonable service can readily be visualised and experience should have shown the most desirable type of local government unit to render this service practicable.

A special branch such as Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease, Mental Deficiency and the like should not be dealt with partially by one authority, partially by another as at present obtains in a majority of cases. In my view, a satisfactory outlook upon the problems involved cannot be obtained by a splitting up of duties and powers with the inevitable result that a complete unification of effort is unlikely ever to be achieved.

The Medical Officer of a small authority is, at the moment, the general practitioner of the Public Health service and there comes a time also when his duties become so comprehensive that a review of his most useful functions is a matter of necessity if his position is not to become somewhat artificial. This can only satisfactorily be carried out on a national scale and any scheme of medical service reconstruction is bound to take note of the position. It is earnestly to be hoped that the circumstances of the small authority will be fully investigated and appreciated as such authorities do constitute a vital section of the nation's resources.

HOUSING.

During the year, the number of slum-clearance families re-housed was 2, and the number of houses represented was also 2.

Action of the year under review consisted of certain repair work and the representing of individual houses. The former will maintain existing accommodation at a fair level but the latter will not greatly affect the slum clearance position even though continued for a long period. The resumption of area procedure is, under existing legislation, the only hope of considerable housing improvement.

If property is known to be condemned, then the owner cannot be expected to carry out more than the bare minimum in the way of repairs and if the inhabitants have got to live in these conditions for any lengthy period, then the action taken by condemning their homes is in fact prejudicial rather than favourable to their position.

Overcrowding is a somewhat different problem and a mobile population such as exists peculiarly under war conditions is not the best source of information. Until the population of the town becomes reasonably stabilised, action on a large scale may have to remain in abeyance.

It will be appreciated that continuance of small scale improvements in both over - crowding and slum clearance can result from the judicious apportionment of what council houses become vacant since factors of this kind doubtless play an important part in the selection of tenants for the somewhat limited accommodation becoming available.

Renewed efforts will be made to bring the slum clearance position thoroughly under review and to investigate the overcrowding position in whatever way seems most practicable.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1942.



GENERAL INSPECTION.

The total number of inspections, interviews and re-visits made is 2030, and the number of defects for which informal and formal notices were served number 690.

The following table shows a summary of the principal nuisances and defects (excluding defects under Housing Acts) which have been dealt with:—

Defective and blocked drains	43
Defective and blocked W.C's	32
General defects on property	306
Defective Ashbins	238

The total number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year was 217. Enquiry was made into 337 cases of infectious disease.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All the butchers' shops and premises where food is stored or prepared are regularly inspected, the number of visits paid being 799.

On October 19th, 1942, the Town Clerk of the Dukinfield Corporation invited representatives of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Longdendale Councils to meet representatives of the Dukinfield Health Committee to consider the question of joint inspection of meat at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse, Dukinfield.

All animals used for food in the districts of these Local Authorities are slaughtered in this slaughterhouse and after discussing the matter an arrangement was arrived at for the future inspection by the Meat Inspectors of each Council. A rota of inspection was agreed upon as follows :—

Ashton-under-Lyne being responsible for two weeks per month and Stalybridge and Dukinfield one week per month.

This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily since the commencement on October 26th, 1942. There is now a definite assurance that all butchers' meat brought into the Borough has been properly inspected and passed for human consumption.

The following articles of food were examined during the year and condemned as unfit for human food :—

383 tins Milk	175 lbs. Forequarters
34 tins Fruit	of Beef.
411 tins Vegetables	26 lbs. Forequarters and
131 tins Meat	Flanks of Mutton.
31 tins Soups.	6 lbs. Chopped Pork.
30 tins Fish	3 lbs. Chicken and Ham
2 tins Sausage Meat	Roll.
1 Jar Marmalade	42 lbs. Cheese
1 tin Prepared Meal	6 lbs. Tongue
9 Rabbits	24 lbs. Bacon
1 Turkey	2 lbs. Butter
189½ lbs. Sausages	25 lbs. Dried Prunes
121½ lbs. Sausage Meat	2 boxes Kippers
6¾ lbs Meat	3½ lbs. Brawn
21 lbs. Beef	3 lbs. Tomatoes

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one registered common lodging house and two houses-let-in-lodgings. Occasional visits are paid to these premises.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension of the sewerage and no important alteration to the drainage system has been made during the year.

During the year the Department employees have opened 10 drains and 44 W.C's.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The number of premises disinfested during the year was 10.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Only one set of premises is used for the trade of tripe boiling, two for marine stores, and one for rag and bone dealer. These premises are periodically visited and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

In the Borough there are:—

Factories (with mechanical power) ...	70
Factories (without mechanical power) ...	34
Bakehouses	45

The bakehouses have received usual inspections but owing to pressure of other duties the factories have not had the same attention as in former years.

SALVAGE.

In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Supply, a Salvage Steward scheme was put into operation during the year. A recruiting drive for stewards was carried out and the Ministry of Information displayed appropriate films in various schools in the Borough. The Honorary Salvage Officer along with other ladies visited all parts of the town and enrolled a considerable number of salvage stewards. By the end of December, some 428 stewards were operating.

Two waste paper competitions were held during 1942, and although Stalybridge did not qualify for a prize, the results as shown below, were fairly satisfactory.

Waste Paper Competition, January.

Amount collected by Cleansing Department 33 tons.

Amount collected by Voluntary Organisations 23 tons.

Waste Paper Competition—May, June, July.

Amount collected by Cleansing Department 58 tons

Amount collected by Voluntary Organisations 19 tons

In June, a book effort resulted in the collection of 1,000 yards of books.

Below are noted details of the salvage collected during the year.

	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Paper	198	7	—	—
Ferrous Metals	80	10	—	—
Aluminium	—	2	1	9
Brass	—	16	1	2
Lead	—	3	2	2
Rubber	2	10	2	—
Textiles	6	7	—	—
Bottles (636 gross)	38	17	—	—
Bones	5	—	1	3
Kitchen Waste	249	19	1	—
Old Sacking, String, etc. ...	1	11	1	—
Total...	584	4	1	16

201 loads of kitchen waste were collected and the number of communal bins placed in various parts of the town was increased to 372.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

2239 loads of house and trade refuse were collected during the year.

The average weight of one load of refuse was 2 tons, 3 cwts, 1 qtr., and the total weight of refuse and salvage collected was approximately 4837 tons.

253 ashbins were supplied during the year and charged to the owners of the property.

The following table shows the number of ashbins which have received attention during the year.

Ashbins	Loads
225,583	2,239

The number of ashbins is shown below in each ward, the refuse from which is removed by this Department.

Lancashire Ward	1684
Stayley Ward	2508
Dukinfield Ward	1314
Millbrook Ward	845
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	6351
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